

CARAVAN SECURITY

This leaflet is prepared by The Caravan Club as part of its free information service to members. The contents are believed correct at date of publication, but the current position may be checked with The Club's Information Office. The Club does not endorse the listed products and you should satisfy yourself as to their suitability. As always check that the installation of an after-market accessory does not invalidate your Warranty.

September 2010

Last year around 1400 caravans were stolen in the UK. Very few are ever returned to their original owner, partly because they 'disappear' into an illicit network of buyers and sellers, and partly because, when a caravan is found by the police, all identifying marks have been removed - it is not uncommon for thieves to grind out the VIN number from the caravan windows. Many times the police must return the 'suspect' caravan to the thieves, simply because they cannot prove it belongs to someone else.

It is not just new caravans that are prime targets for being stolen; in fact caravans that are about 2 or 3 years old that are more likely to be stolen. Thefts occur all year round; historically most thefts occur either from home (or other private residences) or commercial storage sites, but occasionally thefts will occur from caravan sites (seasonal pitches or storage areas), dealerships or repairers (whilst awaiting service or repair) or car parks, lay-bys etc.

To avoid becoming another insurance statistic, and to meet most insurers' conditions of acceptance, certain precautions should be taken.

Many caravan security devices are available on the market, from hitchlocks to steady locks, from alarms to wheelclamps. Prices vary from £30 to over £100, and it is very difficult to decide which would be the most effective. There are also alarms and sophisticated tracking systems available costing hundreds of pounds. This leaflet sets out to make the choice easier.

HITCHLOCKS



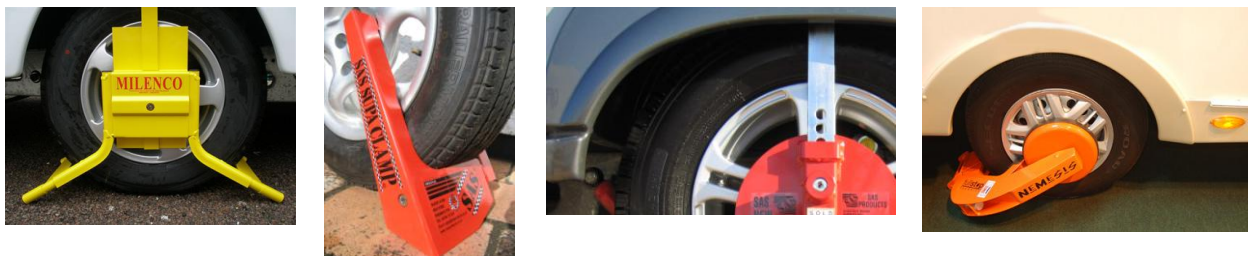
Only products which envelop the hitch-head and completely cover the securing bolts are considered to meet the highest standard under this category. So called hitchlocks which leave the bolts exposed, and which have no further deterrent, are virtually worthless, as the thief will simply unbolt it and fit one they have brought with them.

A good hitchlock will deter the opportunist thief, and will offer a reasonable degree of protection on site and at roadside halts and motorway service areas, providing you use the type that can lock car and caravan together. (In the interests of safety, it is not recommended that a hitchlock is used which locks the two together when in transit.) However, they are not considered to be sufficient protection when the caravan is in storage or at home, when a professional thief will use a chain or grappling device, making the hitch redundant.



WHEELCLAMPS

Many different types on the market make choice difficult, but generally look for one which appears robust and has a lock which cannot readily be attacked by hacksaw or drill. Any products with thin radiating arms, or exposed locks, are likely to prove vulnerable. Also bear in mind the thief will happily let down the tyre, even if it causes minor damage to the caravan, so look for a product which will not be defeated by such action.



WHEEL LOCKS

Launched in 2005, this is a new type category of security product, similar to a wheelclamp, but fitting through the wheel and locking to the brake assembly. A new Sold Secure Diamond Wheel Lock Standard should ensure such products are highly effective. The Al-Ko system is available in three versions - the Al-Ko Secure Compact, suitable for 2006 model year caravans onwards, fitted with lock receiver at the time of manufacture; the Al-Ko Secure Plus, suitable for 2006 model year caravans onwards, without lock receiver fitted, but with pre-punched fixing holes in brake back plate, and the Al-Ko Secure Premium, suitable for 2001-2005 model caravans, without lock receiver and without pre-punched holes in back plate. The Secure Plus and the Secure Premium must be fitted by a dealer.

An equivalent system for Explorer Group caravans with BPW chassis is also available.



ALARMS

Many different types of caravan alarm are available, with prices, sophistication and reliability varying greatly. Issues such as power consumption during periods of storage and ease of disablement are difficult for purchasers to assess. The Sold Secure Standard for caravan alarms addresses these and other important issues. There is currently one combined alarm and tracking system that meets this standard. However, sadly, no other manufacturer has applied/re-applied for Sold Secure status. Any product found showing the Sold Secure logo may be old stock. If you are looking for a Sold Secure alarm, check the Sold Secure website for the current position.

TRACKING SYSTEMS

Tracking systems enable a caravan to be located after it has been stolen, generally using satellite technology, although the earliest systems used radio signals.

There are various types of system available, however:

- Systems designed primarily for motor vehicles. These may not ideally suit use in trailer caravans, since their power consumption may be too high for use during periods of storage.
- Systems designed primarily for caravan use. These tend to be optimised for caravan use, especially in terms of issues like power consumption. The systems detailed in the table on pages 10 and 11 have additionally passed the requirements

of the Sold Secure and/or Thatcham standard for such products, confirming their suitability for caravan use, their durability and resistance to attack etc. These are the only systems that we consider to have a proven level of performance.

- ‘Monitored’ systems, where any alarm is alerted to a monitoring centre, who can then contact the owner and/or the police.
- ‘Unmonitored’ systems, which usually alert the owner directly, often by mobile phone text messages.

In all cases, the equipment is relatively expensive, and monitored systems additionally incur a significant annual fee for the monitoring service.

It is important to recognise that the effectiveness of all tracking systems depends on being able to not only locate but also to recover the stolen vehicle. This generally requires police involvement, although it is vital to note that the responsibility for recovering a vehicle actually rests with its owner (or any third party contracted by them), and the police are not obliged to carry out recovery work. Current police policy does not guarantee a response to a stolen vehicle report via a tracking system. Forces may respond to reports alerted via a legitimate, accredited monitoring centre, but are far less likely to respond to an alert made directly to the owner. When choosing a tracking system, ask the provider for details of any monitoring centre used, and look for characteristics like the existence of a police-allocated Unique Reference Number and ideally compliance with the Association of Chief Police Officers and Home Officer Guidance to Companies on Police Policy relating to Stolen Vehicle Tracking Systems.

Tracking systems are building a reputation for themselves as being an effective way of recovering stolen caravans. Often recovery is very rapid, and before any significant harm has been done to the caravan. The proliferation of systems, and evolving technology has meant that insurance companies can still be reticent about offering premium discounts when such systems are fitted. If considering a tracking system, do not assume that all insurers will recognise it as justifying a discount.

DATA CHIP SYSTEMS

Quite a number of companies offering data chip/electronic tagging technology have come and gone, and our advice has always been to wait until one or more systems becomes widely accepted by the caravan industry. The official asset marking system for the caravan industry is CRiS (see below). Other asset marking systems exist, but only one, (Datatag), has official industry approval through either Sold Secure or Thatcham.

CRIS (CARAVAN REGISTRATION AND IDENTIFICATION SCHEME)

Since 1992, all touring caravans manufactured by National Caravan Council (NCC) members have been marked on their chassis and on all windows with their unique 17 digit Vehicle Identification Number and these are recorded on the CRiS database. Additionally, all new caravans manufactured by NCC members since August 1997 are electronically tagged during manufacture for added security. From 1999 this scheme was extended to allow pre-1992 and privately imported caravans to be registered in a similar way. CRiS marking can be further enhanced by using CRiS Xtra Kit (microdot), which links directly to the CRiS number.

Uniquely available to Club members is Silent Tracer, a high-quality security marking system that makes caravans more difficult to steal. It helps combat fraud through ‘cloning’ and

‘ringing’ by giving each caravan its own unique tamper-proof identity using the very latest DNA technology. For a competitive price Caravan Club members receive a Silent Tracer DIY security kit comprising an electronic glass tag, Selecta DNA, CRiS Microdots and tamper-resistant labels, as well as a UV tracer to install in their caravan.

Current costs for CRiS services are:

- Registration of new caravan – included in purchase price
- Registration of pre – 1992 caravans – standard price £37.12
(£5 Discount for Club members) £32.12
- Update of registration details on change of ownership £12.00
- CRiS Enquire (confirmation of name of registered keeper and if Caravan is recorded as stolen written off or on finance) £14.95
(£5 discount for members) £ 9.95
- CRiS Xtra Kit £39.95
- Caravan Club Silent Tracer £69.95

For further details, telephone CRiS on 01722 411430 (8 am - 8 pm Monday to Friday, 9am – 5 pm Saturday, 10am - 5 pm on Sunday), or e-mail cris@hpi.co.uk.

MISCELLANEOUS

Other security products include posts which are cemented into the ground so the caravan can be secured to it by a hitchlock. Others anchor the caravan chassis to the ground. High security door locks with cylindrical keys are more effective than the standard variety, but beware, if the caravan door has a window in it the thief will simply remove the window and operate the door handle from inside. Steady locks can be overcome by bending the steadies, so are not serious deterrents. Winter wheels replace the road wheels for long term storage, but must be locked securely in position; otherwise the thief will bring his own wheels and swap over. Roof lettering/numbering enables the caravanner to put a unique code on the caravan roof that can be spotted by the police from a helicopter or motorway bridge, or from a road video camera. The year of manufacture and CRiS number could be used; it is often not recommended to use a post code as it could advertise that you are away from home.



Winter Wheels



Locking Wheel Bolts

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TO TAKE

- 1 Become part of the Club's Theftcheck scheme, by ensuring your caravan details are registered with us (tel 01342 318813).
- 2 Immobilise your caravan at all times, even when stopping only briefly.
- 3 Consider a reliable alarm. The initial outlay is set against added security and peace of mind.
- 4 Remove all personal belongings and contents from the caravan whenever it's not in use and leave curtains open, so potential thieves can see nothing of value is inside.
- 5 Take photographs of the exterior and interior of the caravan and keep them at home, along with any registration documents. Make a note of any identifying scratches etc.
- 6 Mark the serial or chassis number in several places inside the caravan, using an ultra violet pen or permanent marker. Make a note of the mark locations.
- 7 Ensure the CRiS registration of your caravan is up to date with details of your ownership, or make sure you register your caravan if it is eligible and you have not already done so.
- 8 Keep a register of the serial numbers of all the accessories fitted, such as refrigerators and cookers.
- 9 Don't choose a storage site on price alone. Consider site security.

If the worst happens and the caravan is stolen, notify the police and insurance company. Give the police a full description, including chassis number and any identifying marks. Even if you are not insured with The Club, contact Theftcheck so the caravan details can be added to the register - it may help with recovery.

APPROVAL SCHEMES

SOLD SECURE

Sold Secure, the Home Office and Police inspired and supported attack test house, is the main accredited UK based organisation testing the effectiveness of caravan and trailer security devices. Operating from purpose built premises near Daventry in Northamptonshire, the company works very closely with CITARG, the caravan industry technical committee overseeing security matters in the generation of specifications and security awareness. A division of the Master Locksmiths Association, Sold Secure have developed and launched with CITARG a new specification to keep up to date with the methods used by thieves, and increasing numbers of caravan insurance companies fully recognize the work done for the benefit of the caravanner. Products tested to the 'Silver' standard offer theft resistance aimed at preventing determined attacks. Products tested to the 'Gold' standard offer theft resistance aimed at preventing dedicated attacks. A new 'Diamond' standard has now been developed in conjunction with the NCC (National Caravan Council) for a new class of caravan security

called Wheel Locks. Current information on products is available on the Sold Secure website: www.soldsecure.com, or telephone 01327 264687.



THATCHAM

The Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre, or Thatcham as they are more widely known, was established in 1969 by British Insurers. Thatcham's main aim is to carry out research targeted at containing or reducing the cost of motor insurance claims, whilst maintaining safety and quality standards. Thatcham is best known by motorists for testing vehicle security systems and for their work in testing seats for whiplash prevention. Thatcham also tests alarms, immobilisers and other security systems for after-sale fitment and has relatively recently started testing products specifically for the caravanning market as well. Current information on products is available on the Thatcham website: www.thatcham.org, telephone 01635 868855.

Other approval organisations are TÜV (Germany) and TNO (Holland) - for further information check with the manufacturer. Note that the attack test procedures normally used by these organizations are not specifically designed for caravan products. However, such approval is better than none at all.

HITCHLOCKS*

HITCHLOCK NAME	CONTACT FOR LOCAL STOCKIST	PRICE GUIDE £	LOCK CAR/VAN TOGETHER?	COVER HITCH BOLT	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	WEIGHT KG
Bulldog Mini Lock	Bulldog Security Products Ltd Tel: 01952 728171 www.bulldogsecure.com	65-85	Yes	Yes	Gold	5.5-6.5
Bulldog Hitch Lock	“	85-90	No	Yes	Gold	6-6.5
Bulldog WW100B Hitchlock for Winterhoff models WS3000D & WS3000H	“	65-85	Yes	Yes	Silver	5.5-6.5
Anti-theft device for:	Al-Ko Kober Limited Tel: 01926 818500 www.al-ko.co.uk					
AKS 2004/3004 (Stabiliser)		99	Yes	Yes	Gold	1.5
AKS 1300 (Stabiliser)		105	Yes	Yes	Gold	1.5
AKS 2500/2700 (Stabilisers)		127	Yes	Yes	Gold	2.2
AK 160/300 (coupling heads)		105	Yes	Yes	Gold	1.5
Hitch Lock for AK130, AK160, AKS1300, AKS2004 & AKS3004	Maypole Ltd Tel: 0121 4233011 www.stronghold-security.com	90	Yes	Yes	Gold	2.6
Stonghold Winterhoff Hitch Lock	“	90	Yes	Yes	Gold	2.6
Avonride Hitch Lock	“	90	Yes	Yes	Gold	4.5
Bradley Autohead Hitch Lock	“	90	Yes	Yes	Gold	4.3
Bradley Original Hitch Lock	“	90	Yes	Yes	Gold	4.3
Robstop WS3000 Plus	BPW Ltd Tel: 0116 281 6100 www.bpw.co.uk	from 90	Yes	Yes	Gold	2
Saracen Hitch Lock for AKS 1300, AKS 2004, AKS 3004, AK130 & AK 160	Purple Line Limited Tel: 01473 601200 www.purpleline.co.uk	80	Yes	Yes	Gold	3.5
Fortress2 Gold Hitchlock for AKS 1300, 2004, 3004 & standard Al-Ko hitches	SAS Products Ltd Tel: 0117 937 4747 www.sasproducts.com	85	Yes	Yes	Gold	5
SAS Compact Condor Hitchlock	“	40	Yes	No - has high security shear-off nut	Silver	2
SAS Compact Eagle Hitchlock for AK160, AK300 and AKS 1300, 2004, 2005	“	40	Yes	No - has high security shear-off nut	Silver	2
Crusader Hitchlock	George Dyke Ltd Tel: 0121 526 7138 www.keep-it.co.uk	75-86	Yes	Yes	Silver	6

HITCHLOCK NAME (CONTINUED)	CONTACT FOR LOCAL STOCKIST	PRICE GUIDE £	LOCK CAR/VAN TOGETHER?	COVER HITCH BOLT	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	WEIGHT KG
Diamond Hitchlock for Al-ko stabilisers	Securiti Ltd. Tel: 01775 821201 www.eslimited.co.uk	70	Yes	Yes	Gold	4
Super Heavy Duty 3004 Hitchlock for AKS1300, AKS2004, AKS3004, AK130 & AK160	Milenco Ltd Tel: 01908 220102 www.milenco.com	72	Yes	Yes	Gold	
Super Heavy Duty WS3000 Hitchlock for Winterhoff WS3000	“	80	Yes	Yes	Gold	

DIAMOND WHEEL LOCK *

WHEEL LOCK NAME	CONTACT FOR LOCAL STOCKIST	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD
Al-Ko Secure Compact	Al-Ko Kober Limited Tel: 01926 818500 www.al-ko.co.uk	227	Diamond Pass
Al-Ko Secure Plus	“	Consult dealer	Diamond Pass
Al-Ko Secure Premium	“	Consult dealer	Diamond Pass
Diamond Wheel-Lock for Explorer Group chassis	SAS Products Ltd Tel: 0117 937 4747 www.sasproducts.com	260	Diamond Pass

WHEELCLAMPS*

WHEELCLAMP NAME	CONTACT FOR LOCAL STOCKIST	PRICE GUIDE £	WEIGHT KG	SOLD SECURE STANDARD
Bulldog Titan Heavy Duty Wheel Clamp	Bulldog Security Products Ltd Tel: 01952 728171 www.bulldogsecure.com	115-120	14.5-18.5	Gold
Bulldog Euroclamp EM 500 SS	“	60-65	7	Silver
QD22,QD33 & QD44	“	95-100	10-11	Silver
Bulldog Centaur	“	155-160	19.5	Gold
Bulldog Centaur Commercial	“	165-170	21	Gold
SAS Supaclamp Gold – alloy & steel wheels	SAS Products Ltd Tel: 0117 937 4747 www.sasproducts.com	115	5	Gold
SAS Supaclamp Duo Silver – alloy & steel wheels	“	99	6	Silver
SAS New Defender – alloy & steel wheels	“	115	12	Gold
Condor Wheel Clamp	George Dyke Ltd Tel: 0121 526 7138 www.keep-it.co.uk	117	10	Gold

WHEELCLAMP NAME (CONTINUED)	CONTACT FOR LOCAL STOCKIST	PRICE GUIDE £	WEIGHT KG	SOLD SECURE STANDARD
Milenco Mega Wheel Clamp	Milenco Limited Tel: 01908 220102 www.milenco.com	200	28	Gold
Milenco Wheel Clamp	“	100	9	Gold
Milenco Compact Plus Wheel Clamp for alloy wheels	“	90	3	Silver
Stronghold Alloy Wheel Clamp	Maypole Ltd Tel: 0121 4233011 www.stronghold-security.com	90	5.5	Gold
Scimitar Wheel Clamp	“	130	6	Gold
Excalibur Wheel Clamp	Purple Line Limited Tel: 01473 601200 www.purpleline.co.uk	130	7.5	Gold
Nemesis Wheel Clamp	“	150	12	Gold (when used in conjunction with Sold Secure approved locking wheel nuts)
Samurai Wheel Clamp	“	90	4.3	Gold
Centurian QF Wheel Clamp	“	120	12	Gold
Diamond Alloy Wheel Clamp	Securiti Ltd Tel: 01775 821201 www.eslimited.co.uk	74	6.5	Gold
Hublock	Holden Engineering Tel: 01935 410615 www.buffalotrailers.co.uk	200	3	Gold

SECURITY POSTS AND GROUND ANCHORS*

	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	OTHER DETAILS
MC100 Lock Chain & Anchor	Bulldog Security Products Ltd Tel: 01952 728171 www.bulldogsecure.com	135-140	Silver	Ground anchor, padlock & chain
13mm Superlink Chain	English Chain Company Ltd Tel: 0845 3303 446 www.englishchain.co.uk	60-100	Gold	Chain only
Torc Ground Anchor	Pragmasis Ltd Tel: 01827 286267 www.torc-anchors.com	60	Gold	Ground anchor
Protector 16mm Chain	“	1.5m: 76 2.0m: 92	Gold	Chain
Protector 19mm Chain	“	1.5m: 105 2.0m: 135	Gold	Chain

(CONTINUED)	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	OTHER DETAILS
Opti 101/670 HD Round Telescopic Post	ATG Access Tel: 08456 757574 www.atgaccess.com	230 plus 20 for Sold Secure lock	Gold	Security post
H/D Removable Post inc Shroud	Barriers Direct Tel: 0800 0288010 www.barriersdirect.co.uk	185	Gold	Security post
Retractapost TL	Autopa Ltd Tel: 01788 550556 www.autopa.co.uk	400	Gold	Security post

TRACKING SYSTEMS*

	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	THATCHAM APPROVED	OTHER DETAILS
Sure-track MT2	Automotion Security Ltd Tel: 07899 967 322 www.automotionsecurity.com	346 plus 112 per annum monitoring charge	Gold	N/A	Monitored tracking system - transferable
Trackstar	Trafficmaster Plc Tel: 0870 0503000 www.trafficmaster.co.uk	399 plus 144 per annum or 399 duration of ownership monitoring charge	N/A	Yes	Monitored tracking system - transferable
SmarTrack Caravan	SmarTrack Ltd Tel: 0845 8336971 www.smartrack.eu	299 plus 135 per annum monitoring charge	N/A	Yes	Monitored tracking system - transferable
Cobra Trak First	Cobra UK Ltd Tel: 0844 239 0034 www.cobravehiclesecurity.co.uk	549 including 12 months subscription plus 139 per annum thereafter or 799 duration of ownership monitoring charge	N/A	Yes	Monitored tracking system - transferable
Cobra Trak First Mobile	"	583 including 12 months subscription plus 173 per annum monitoring charge thereafter	N/A	Yes	Monitored tracking system - transferable
Caravan Defender	Outsmart the Thief Ltd Tel: 08702 606060 www.outsmart-the-thief.com	649 plus 95 per annum or 395 for 5 years monitoring charge	Yes	N/A	Combined alarm & monitored tracking system - transferable
Defender Tracker	"	495 plus 95 per annum or 395 for 5 years monitoring charge	Yes	N/A	Monitored tracking system - transferable
HAL-Locate	Locate Sales & Marketing Ltd Tel: 0844 357 6313 www.hal-locate.eu	From 625 including first year Europe-wide monitoring charge From 849 inc 3 year monitoring package From 999 inc 5 year monitoring package	N/A	Yes	Monitored GPS tracking system
MTrack	Automatrics Ltd Tel: 01329 663812 www.mtrackonline.co.uk	255 plus 108 per annum monitoring charge. Optional Remote Control 49	N/A	Yes	Portable GSM/RF (radio frequency) tracking device

(CONTINUED)	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	THATCHAM APPROVED	OTHER DETAILS
Tracker Caravan	Tracker Network (UK) Ltd Tel: 0845 603 9368 www.tracker.co.uk	454 plus 40 per annum monitoring charge	N/A	Yes	Monitored tracking system

MARKING SYSTEMS*

	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	THATCHAM APPROVED	OTHER DETAILS
Datatag Caravan System	Datatag ID Limited Tel: 01932 895304 www.datatag.co.uk	80	N/A	Yes	Overt and covert marking system

MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS *

	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	OTHER DETAILS
Highlander Winter Wheels	Purple Line Ltd Tel: 01473 601200 www.purpleline.co.uk	140	Gold	Winter wheels
Winter Security Wheels Gold	SAS Products Ltd Tel: 0117 937 4737 www.sasproducts.com	115	Gold	Winter wheels
Locking Wheel Bolts	“	22 – set of 2 32 – set of 4	Gold	Locking wheel bolts
Corner Steady Locks	“	20 each	N/A	Corner steady lock
Heavy Duty Leg Lock	“	30 – set of 2 51 – set of 4	N/A	Leg lock for caravans with collar over rear corner steady
Milenco Door Security Lock	Milenco Limited Tel: 01908 220102 www.milenco.com	28	N/A	Sliding door lock
Milenco Sleep Safe Alarm	“	20	N/A	6 x window & door alarms with visible flashing LEDs
Milenco Corner Steady Locks	“	36 – set of 2	N/A	Corner steady lock
Torpedo Corner Steady Leg Lock	Purple Line Limited Tel: 01473 601200 www.purpleline.co.uk	20	N/A	Corner steady lock

CONTINUED	CONTACT FOR INFORMATION	PRICE GUIDE £	SOLD SECURE STANDARD	OTHER DETAILS
Thief Detector Alarm	DNF Alarms Ltd Tel: 01449 771883 www.dnfalarms.com	40	N/A	Door alarm
Universal Jack Alarm	“	50	N/A	Corner steady alarm
Top Marks	Top Marks Tel: 023 8081 3483	28 per kit	N/A	Roof lettering
Savaspac	Savaspac Tel: 07801 473047 www.savaspac.co.uk	13 per kit	N/A	Roof lettering
Griffin Designs	Griffin Designs Tel: 01243 528384 www.griffindesigns.co.uk	From 30	N/A	Roof lettering

***NOTE: Items in bold text are Sold Secure and/or Thatcham Approved at the time of publication. Check the websites for the latest information.**

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